

Hello BOS,

My name is Shawn Girard, some of you may know me. I work for the Fire Department in town. I am scheduled for the selectmen's meeting on 10/29/13 seeking permission to bow hunt the Tadmuck Rd parcel. ID# 027 0229 0000 TOWN OF WESTFORD TADMUCK RD VACANT-BOS 100.8 ACRES. If you look at the GIS hunting map this parcel has a large area out of the 500' buffer from an occupied building and 150' from a roadway that state law requires.

"No arrows may be released within 150 feet of, or across, any state or hard-surfaced highway, and hunting is prohibited within 500 feet of any dwelling or building in use, unless authorized by the owner or occupant thereof." From MA hunting abstract.

I have already walked these woods from different trail accesses. If I were to gain permission to hunt this property I have permission to park in a neighbors driveway on Tadmuck Rd or the trail head access off of Buckboard Dr.

A little background about myself; I grew up in Westford and still live in the Forge Village section of town. I am an avid bowhunter who takes it very serious. I have been hunting since I was a kid and bow hunting for 20 plus years. I am asking to bow hunt only on this parcel (NO GUN). I understand I have to follow all state regulations and that the town is NOT liable for me, Under MA law; (MGL Ch. 21 § 17C).

Last year I was fortunate enough to harvest three deer in town on private property but due to new home construction I am loosing my spots. This is why I am asking you folks for permission. I have enclosed three pics of the deer that I harvested last year. All three of these deer ran less then 20 yards before they expired.

I look forward to seeing you on Oct. 29th.

Thanks, Shawn Girard

Hi Kelly –

This is Laurie Martin at 39 Buckboard Drive. I spoke with the gentleman who has applied for the permit to bow hunt in back of our house. He gave me the impression that the parcel that he would be hunting on was to the north of the path going from Buckboard Dr. to Dana Dr. It looks like the parcel outlined on the map is to the south of the path. If that is the case, then I am very against allowing this permit. There are public pathways throughout the whole area that many people hike through including all members of my family as well as our family dog. Also, many people – mostly children – walk and/or ride bikes down the straight main path between the neighborhoods.

I do not like the idea at all of any one hunting anywhere back in those woods and hope the selectmen do not allow this permit to be issued.

Thank you,

Laurie Martin

Kelly,

I am concerned about bow hunting in the woods near Buckboard. The trails in this area are used routinely by adults and children, there are geocaches on these trails that also attract young visitors, and students use that land as a cut through from Main Street/Tadmuck area to access Buckboard neighborhood.

I feel like it would take an amazing resource (the trails) and prevent people from using them because they would fear an accident and this permit would put people at risk.

Thank you.

Diane Cadogan
7 Haywagon Circle

Dear Mr Ross,

I am a resident on Tadmuck Lane and my neighbor Marie Claire Oneal has made me aware of the Bow hunting item on the BOS agenda tomorrow evening. I am unable to attend the meeting but would like to let you know that I too oppose this.

I myself have 3 kids who enjoy walking through the woods on the proposed area to visit friends in the Buckboard neighborhood. I also know of several Girl Scout troops who have used these quiet, safe trails to hike with their girls. The conservation trail in that area is very also used by kids, dog walkers etc and the bow hunting would be incredibly dangerous in that area . If you could pass along my opinion to the BOS I would greatly appreciate it. Thank you!

Kind Regards, Michelle Metivier

Hi-

Got an email from Mariclare O'Neal regarding the request for a bow hunting permit. While I'm generally in favor of hunting for food, and can see that at some point in the future the deer (or bear, or turkey, or coyote) population of Westford may require some sort of controlled hunting, the area outlined does look too close to residential areas to me.

I appreciate that the hunter who is making the request is a firefighter, and is therefore concerned with safety. But lots of houses abut the proposed hunting area, and mistakes with weapons are too often final.

Mark Beatty

18 Chippewa Road

Westford, MA

Hi Kelly,

I heard about the request to allow bow hunting on the conservation land that borders Tadmuck Road, Dana Drive, Buckboard and Tallus Way.

I wanted to reach out and let you know that I am very much against this request.

There are many children within the neighborhoods that this land borders, and they very often play in the woods, or use the public path between Dana Drive and Buckboard, as a safe means to move between neighborhoods to visit friends. In addition, it is a very popular section of woods for hikers in general. I have lived in town for just shy of 10 years, travel up and down Tadmuck Road as the main route to and from my home, and I always see cars parked at the trail head on Tadmuck Road.

Allowing bow hunting on this property would put these children, our children, and all the other citizens at risk of serious injury or potential death. Is this a risk that the BOS is willing to take?

I would certainly hope not. I know I speak for a lot of community members when requesting that we keep our woods and conservation land safe!

There are other areas, whether in town or surrounding neighborhoods, that are specified as designated hunting areas. I would strongly urge the requester to continue his hobby in these already established areas.

Although I am unable to attend tonight's meeting, I am happy to voice my opinion in person if need be. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kind regards,

Suzann Pillion

7 Fairview Drive

To: Westford Board of Selectman

It was quite concerning when I read about the application for "bow hunting" in our neighborhood. The area in question, which by the applicants own admission has paths that are traveled by many adults and children in the area.

Our friends children use these paths to get home from school and our children traverse them to find a safer route to friends homes rather than walking on our busy streets.

I have discussed this with friends who hunt via bow and gun and they would never seek a location so populated/traversed by walkers, nature lovers, adjacent to developments and they actually prefer a less populated area for their fall adventure into the woods.

I encourage you to guide these applicants to more appropriate setting for the hunting season and not put our friends and children at un-necessary risk of an accident that could have been prevented.

Thank your for your dedicated service to Westford,

Stephen Sarkisian

115 Main St

Westford, MA 01886

Hello,

We are a family of 4 that live on Buckboard Dr. Although we have just moved to the area a few months ago we have enjoyed these paths with our children many times already and plan to use them regularly. We are very much opposed to bow hunting within this land. We hope the permit is denied.

Thank you,
Mr. and Mrs. Hinkle
25 Buckboard Dr.
Westford, MA 01886

Kelly,

Joe and I are very concerned about the proposal to allow bow hunting near our neighborhood. I know the boys like to explore back there and feel it is unsafe to allow now hunting so close to a neighborhood . Please forward to the rest of the Selectman. Thank you!

Kristen Thomas

Dear Kelly,

It has been brought to my attention that a request has been made for a bow hunting permit for the land near Buckboard Drive. As a resident of Buckboard Drive, I strongly oppose the approval of this request. This area is in use by a number of families, and allowing someone to bow hunt in this area would be extremely dangerous. I regret that I am unable to attend the meeting tonight, but wanted to pass along my feedback in advance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Lisa Glynn

33 Buckboard Drive

Westford, MA

Dear Mr Ross,

My husband and I have learned that an individual has applied for a bow hunting license that would be used on the parcel of conservation land that starts on Tadmuck Road, and borders Buckboard Drive. While we respect a person's right to hunt, we feel that doing so in this part of town would pose a danger to our children.

We, as a family, do frequent the woods in that area and walk the trails as a way to show our children nature. It alarms us to hear that there would be someone out there hunting and the possibility of endangering our children is a frightening concept. If this license is approved, we will have no choice but to cease our walks back there.

Please note that we do see many children in the neighborhood frequenting that path. We saw 4 boys of 4-6 grade age use that path for their bikes just last week and it is also used by horseback riders.

As mentioned, we do not have a problem with a person participating in hunting. It is the location and proximity to small children and adults that really scares us - it's a recipe for a fatal accident. Hope you will consider denying this request so we can all continue to safely use this nature trail.

Sincerely,

James & Suzanne Dodos

35 Buckboard Drive

Request From: Jean and Norman Lux

Email: jlux100@gmail.com

Source IP: 10.0.0.110

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Organization:

We are writing to express our opposition for permission to bow hunt in the area behind Buckboard/Tadmuck. Our property abuts this parcel and we often walk with our young children in the area. It is not the proper place to allow for bow hunting. Thank you for your attention.

Request From: Andrea Cuggino

Email: acuggino@verizon.net

Source IP: 10.0.0.110

Address: 36 Buckboard drive

City: Westford

State: MA

Zip: 01886

Organization:

My concern about the bow hunting is that there is a trail from Buckboard to Dana drive that kids, adults with pets, and the trail commission use often. I would just like this area to be safeguarded from any accidents. There are other areas in the same blue outline on the map that I am fine with the hunting, it's simply where the trail is. That trail is used a great deal. I am not opposed to the bow hunting, just in that one small area I would like caution as much as is possible.

I am opposed to the Bow Hunting Permit.

Thank You!

Caroline Parks

Dear Selectmen-

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed permit request by Shawn Girard to allow bow hunting on the public land adjacent to Tadmuck Road and Buckboard Drive. This land contains public trails and is actively and regularly used by both children and adults. The risk of allowing bow hunting on this land is too significant and it would be my sincere hope that this request would be denied for the safety risk it poses to Westford residents. This is not an appropriate place for hunting of any sort.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Regards,

Courtney Davis

43 Buckboard Drive

Westford, MA 01886

Hello Kelly,

I am sending the note below regarding the bow hunting request. If you are able to forward to your counterparts on the BOS it would be much appreciated.

Regards,
Christen Forcier

Dear Selectmen,

I wanted to send a note in regards to the bow hunting permit request by Shawn Girard that is to be considered at tonight's BOS meeting. I don't feel it would be prudent to approve this request. This land is surrounded by residential neighborhoods and there are many individuals, families and children that use the trails. In the interest of safety, I would ask that you seriously consider denying this request.

Regards,
Christen Forcier
45 Buckboard Dr.

Dear Ms Ross, Westford Town Manager

Westford Board of Selectmen

Attached are the minutes of the Board of Selectmen of 11 Sept 1990 (pgs 3 thru 5) which lists various restrictions and application requirements for hunting on two parcels of “town owned land”, Kennedy parcel and the Tadmuck swamp parcel.

It appears that based on previously approved policy of the Westford Board of Selectmen that the requested permission by the current applicant must be denied for not complying with the procedures established by the Westford Board of Selectmen.

Please note the referenced report apparently was never converted to pdf format and placed in the Board of Selectmen document area. I shall see if I can get a copy from one of the members of the committee that generated the report or the Fletcher library.

I would also point out that several years ago, a deer wounded off of Boston Rd., on the power grid right of , was tracked down and killed in the backyard of Mr. Taevs who lived on Hildredth.

It appears that MGLs allow ‘hunters in pursuit’ to enter private property, without the owners permission, to administer the “coup de grace” to a wounded animal.

I seriously doubt that Westford town officials would like to be associated with Bambi being killed in front of children.

Please note that the Conservation Commission or the Westford School Committee have an absolute ban of hunting on land under their care and control.

Additional issues that I raise are

- apparent use of town resources, GIS, for the benefit of a town employee.
- The Tadmuck swamp is a large deer nesting area and that the particular area of trails proposed for bow hunting is like setting up an ambush site for defenseless animals.
- According to bow hunting sites roughly only 18% of deer are killed with a single arrow.
- The effective range of a bow, depending on lbs of draw and target size, is between 200 and 250 feet not 30 feet as claimed by the applicant
- I have checked the Westford two reports for the last 20 years and no MV deaths attributed to collision of a deer with a motor vehicle were reported. Please note that notwithstanding Ms Wromell statement “My friend was killed by a deer” there are no recorded instances within the town of Westford that a deer has attacked and injured or killed anyone in the 41 years that I have lived at my current address.

I am requesting that you recommend to the Board of Selectmen to refuse to issue a permit to hunt the Tadmuck swamp area.

I am requesting that the Westford Board of Selectmen adhere to previously established policy.

If my health and the weather allow me, I will attend the 12 Nov. meeting to voice my opposition to the granting of the requested or any other hunting permit.

Respectfully,

Anthony Martinez III

95 Main St.

Westford, MA 01886

Hello selectman, I wanted to anonymously speak to the issue of hunting in Tadmuck swamp, because I fear bad feelings between Neighbors. People have hunted in these woods for years, I have seen deer/auto strikes often. I am glad the person who has asked permission will not be a stranger, responsible hunters are not a problem. Residents who use these woods are welcome, carry-in carry-out, I feel concern and hope you are reasonable in your decision Thank You

Request From: Kaiomarz Dotivala

Email: kaio_d@hotmail.com

Source IP: 10.0.0.110

Address: 11 Buckboard Dr

City: Westford

State: MA

Zip: 01886

Phone:

Organization:

Dear Sirs,

I am very much against this "Bow Hunting" license because these woods have a trail on which I have taken my own and some of my friends kids on a trek. I do not want to fear being shot at on public trails.

Please, please, please do not issue such a license.

Regards,

Kaio